

Thomas Jefferson to George Washington, October 23, 1791, from the Works of Thomas Jefferson in Twelve Volumes. Federal Edition. Collected and Edited by Paul Leicester Ford.

TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES J. MSS.

[Oct. 23, 1791.]

Th: Jefferson has the honour to subjoin the alternative he suggested in the last paragraph of the President's speech.²

² "A provision for the sale of the vacant lands of the United States is particularly urged by the important considerations that they are pledged as a fund for reimbursing the public debt; that, if timely and judiciously applied they may save the necessity of burthening our citizens with new taxes for the extinguishment of the principal; and that being free to pay annually but a limited proportion of that principal, time lost in beginning the payments cannot be recovered however productive the resource may prove in event."

Having read Colo. Humphrey's letters after Mr. Short's he had been lead into an erroneous arrangement of the facts they state. Colo. Humphrey's letter mentioning the King's refusal of the constitution is of Aug. 22. while it appears by Mr. Short's letter of Aug. 30. that it had not yet been presented to him, & that it was believed he would ratify it.